

## WYCOMBE HOLD ST. ALBANS

St. Albans 0 Wycombe W. 0

**H**OW Wycombe came through the opening 20 minutes' hammering without conceding a goal it is hard to say, but when they finally did settle down they provided an even match and could have snatched victory in the second half.

The St Albans forwards were keen for goals and it seemed only a matter of time before they came. Both Desmond and Rolfe had shots pulled off the goal-line by left-back Lewis, and centre-half Fisher was forced to perform acrobatics to hold the elusive Desmond.

Smith also hit a post and some excellent work by the right-wing combination of Smith and Rolfe provided a string of goalmouth crosses which continually had Wycombe clearing desperately.

Wycombe halted the flow of attack at around the 30-minute mark when they successfully tightened their defence and quickly caught Desmond off-side on two occasions.

From then on they made it an even fight and early in the second half left-winger Horseman hit the bar with a dangerous shot. But generally it was a disappointing second half, with defences clamping down successfully at both ends.

## WANDERERS HOLD REVITALISED ST. ALBANS RIVALS

By "NOVA"

St. Albans 0, Wycombe Wanderers 0

**WYCOMBE WANDERERS** had their first Isthmian League goalless draw of the season on Saturday, when they held the revitalised St. Albans side at Clarence Park, St. Albans.

Both sides showed plenty of spirit in an exciting if not particularly skilful game, each missing about an equal number of good scoring chances. St. Albans, with a tough young defence and a fast and tenacious forward line, had the week before beaten championship-chasing Leytonstone so that this was certainly a well-earned point by the Wanderers.

Wycombe's forward line rarely produced concerted movements and on the few occasions that they did they were foiled by poor shooting and bad luck.

St. Albans had their chances, too, but fine play by John Fisher, more daring now than we could ever have imagined, and another sparkling display by John Beck kept the score-sheet blank.

With Len Worley and Tony Horseman seeing little of the ball, and Peter James in the iron-grip of former England and Barnet skipper Alf D'Arcy, Wycombe's most successful forwards were the converted defenders, Ivor Ashby and George Pullin.

Pullin showed some deft touches, swinging passes out to Horseman and Worley with great accuracy. Ashby also had a fine

game, his straightforward, honest-to-goodness tactics often worrying the home defenders.

The game was played at an extremely fast pace in the first half and woke up again towards the end, when both sides were striving hard for the winner. The home side had a narrow escape in the first few minutes, when Pullin opened a gap for Horseman to run through, but his shot was saved by goalkeeper Cavener. Following up, James hit the loose ball against the bar.

St. Albans then took over the attack but Wycombe weathered the storm and as the game progressed it became obvious that St. Albans had relied on getting an early goal or two. Their later play lacked the earlier incisiveness.

After the interval the Wanderers came more and more into the game. Horseman went close several times, once hitting the bar, and Ashby had a header narrowly saved by Cavener.

As the final whistle approached St. Albans again took up the attack and twice McDonnell went close before left-winger Dowler was presented with the chance of the match. Five yards from goal and expecting Brown to dive at his feet, he waited, shuffled, tapped the ball from one foot to another and then decided to shoot just as Beck rushed back to clear, after Brown had blocked the shot!

Lewis stuck to his task of subduing the tricky Rolfe and in front of him Gale, often acting as a second centre-half with Fisher, played powerfully as ever.

Thomas tried hard to keep Worley supplied with passes but when they did reach him, the move more often than not broke down.